

WE CLAIM:

1. An end user device for receiving an electronic program guide from a head end, said end user device comprising:

data entry interface for receiving an input of a program request;
memory for receiving said electronic program guide from said head end; and
search means for searching said electronic program guide for said program request, wherein if said program request is not in said memory, said search means sends said program request to said head end.

2. The end user device of claim 1, wherein said data entry interface comprises at least one of a radio frequency receiver to receive a signal from a wireless remote control, an infrared receiver to receive a signal from a wireless remote control, an universal serial bus interface, or keyboard interface.

3. The end user device of claim 1 further comprising a data port.

4. The end user device of claim 3, wherein said data port comprises at least one of a universal serial bus interface, a firewire interface, an Ethernet interface, a coaxial cable interface, or an optical interface.

5. A head end for receiving a program request from an end user device, said head end comprising:

a first memory for storing an electronic program guide, said electronic program guide being sent from said first memory to said end user device; and
a second memory for receiving a program request from said end user device.

PATENT

6. The head end of claim 5 further comprising an interactive server, said interactive server receiving said program request not in said electronic program guide from said end user device, said interactive server selectively adding said program request to one of said electronic program guide or extended database schedule in response to the quantity of cumulative requests for said program request not in said electronic program guide.

7. The head end of claim 5 further comprising an interface for communicating with an external interactive server, said external interactive server receiving said program request not in said electronic program guide from said head end, and selectively adding said program request to one of said electronic program guide or extended database schedule in said head end in response to the quantity of cumulative requests for said program request not in said electronic program guide.

8. A system for an interactive electronic program guide, said system comprising:

an end user device, said end user device receiving a program request to query an electronic program guide; and

a head end coupled to said end user device, said head end supplying an electronic program guide to said end user device, said end user device searching said electronic program guide for said program request, wherein if said program request is not in said electronic program guide said end user sends said program request to said head end.

PATENT

9. The system of claim 8, wherein said end user device comprises:

a processor, said processor managing interaction with said electronic program guide;

a tuner coupled to said processor, said tuner receiving said program in said request; and

one or more storage devices coupled to said processor, said one or more storage devices storing an electronic program guide and a list of a plurality of said program requests not in said electronic program guide.

10. The system of claim 9 further comprising an input port coupled to said processor.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein said input port comprises at least one of a radio frequency receiver to receive a signal from a wireless remote control, an infrared receiver to receive a signal from a wireless remote control, an universal serial bus interface, or a keyboard interface.

12. The system of claim 9, wherein said end user device further comprises a data port.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein said data port comprises at least one of a universal serial bus interface, a firewire interface, an Ethernet interface, a coaxial cable interface, or an optical interface.

PATENT

14. The system of claim 8, wherein said head end comprises an interactive server, said interactive server receiving said program request not in said electronic program guide from said end user device, said interactive server selectively adding said program request to one of said electronic program guide or extended database schedule in response to the quantity of cumulative requests for said program request not in said electronic program guide.

15. The system of claim 8 further comprising an external interactive server, said external interactive server receiving said program request not in said electronic program guide from said head end, and selectively adding said program request to one of said electronic program guide or extended database schedule in said head end in response to the quantity of cumulative requests for said program request not in said electronic program guide.

16. The system of claim 8 further comprising a monitor display coupled to said end user device.

17. The system of claim 8 further comprising a television display coupled to said end user device.

18. The system of claim 8 further comprising a personal computer coupled to said end user device.

19. The system of claim 8 further comprising an audio output device coupled to said end user device.

20. A method for providing an interactive electronic program guide, said method comprising:

receiving a program request;

querying an electronic program guide for said request;

supplying a result of said request, wherein said result provides a matched indication, said matched indication providing a next broadcast time period in said electronic program guide for said request; or a miss indication, said miss indication providing data indicating that said request was not found in said electronic program guide; and

selectively adding said request of said miss indication to at least one of said electronic program guide or extended database in response to a quantity of said miss indications for said request.

21. The method of claim 20 further comprising the step of receiving said request from at least one of a wireless remote control, a universal serial bus port interface, a keyboard, a firewire interface, an Ethernet interface.

22. The method of claim 20 further comprising a step of updating said electronic program guide.

23. The method of claim 20 further comprising a step of updating said extended database.

24. The method of claim 20 further comprising a step of receiving said electronic program guide.